

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor typographical errors, amended claims 7, 10, 11 and 15, and canceled claims 1-6 and 12-14. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendment.

Therefore, claims 7-11 and 15-17 are pending in the subject application by virtue of the present amendment. It is respectfully requested that the pending claims 7-11 and 15-17 be reconsidered and passed to issuance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 7, 11, 12 and 15 because of informalities.

Applicants have made appropriate corrections to claims 7, 11 and 15. Support for Applicants amendments to claims 7 and 15 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0026]-[0028] and with reference to FIG. 2. Support for Applicants amendments to claim 11 can be found, for example, in paragraph [0026]. Applicants have canceled claim 12.

Therefore, Applicants believe the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 15 to more clearly point out Applicants' invention. For example, referring to FIG. 2 of the present application, Applicants' invention discloses "a first of said first plurality of diffusion regions" which corresponds to the diffusion

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region 24 which is formed between masking structures 16A. The “first of said first plurality of diffusion regions” **does not** abut respective ones of the plurality of isolation regions 14. A “first of said second plurality of diffusion regions” corresponds to the diffusion region 26 which is formed in the diffusion region 24 between masking structures 16A (i.e. the “first of said second plurality of diffusion regions” is abutting portions of the “first of said first plurality of diffusion regions”).

Therefore, Applicants believe the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants express appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 15 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; claims 7, 11, 12 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections to the claims; and claims 8-10, 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 15 and believe that claims 7 and 15, as amended, overcome the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, Applicants believe that claims 7 and 15, and claims 8-11 and 16-17 which are dependent thereupon, are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

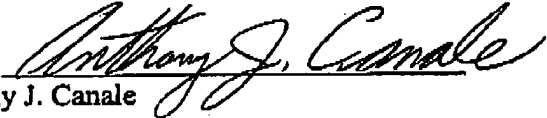
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this amendment. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456. If any extensions or fees are not accounted for, such extension is requested and the associated fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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